



Arkansas Basin Roundtable

PLANNING OUR
WATER FUTURE

ARKANSAS BASIN ROUNDTABLE MEETING MINUTES PUEBLO COMMUNITY COLLEGE June 14, 2017

- **Welcome and Introductions;** Sandy
Members and visitors introduced themselves. 29 members were present.
- **Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting;** Sandy
Meeting Notes from May 10, 2017 approved.
- **Public Comment;** One guest commented that PCC is an excellent place to meet and would hope we continue meeting at this facility.

Reports;

- **Executive Committee Report;** Sandy
 - Executive committee has no report at this time.
- **IBCC Report;** Jeris / Terry
 - Jeris had nothing to report from the IBCC, but wanted to compliment Alan Hamel for all the work he has done for the Roundtable and the Arkansas Basin as our CWCB representative these past several years.
- **CWCB Report;** Alan / Ben
 - Alan introduced visiting CWCB staff members and welcomed Brent Newman back. Alan stated that Jack Goble is now our new CWCB representative. Alan welcomed him to the as the new appointee.
 - Ben went over the SWSI Technical groups highlighting our team consist of environmental task is Jim Broderick, agricultural task is Terry Scanga and Jack Goble, our economic is Scott Winner and Al Ward.
 - Ben pointed out the Joint Roundtable meeting June 20th and informed everyone who wished to attend to sign the RSVP sheet that is being passed around. (15 members signed up).
 - Ben indicated the New WRSA application is now on the CWCB website and those wishing to apply use this format.
 - Another important matter is tracking projects in the basin so if anyone has a project going please pass that information on.
 - John Stroh stated the new applicants for the Conservation Board Director are being reviewed and an announcement should come soon. They're also receiving applications for the State Engineer Director and beginning the interview process shortly. John pointed to the Joint meeting coming up and its importance Also Mara MacKillop is putting together an entrepreneur group to solve water issues.
- **Nonconsumptive Report;** SeEtta
 - SeEtta No Report
- **PEPO/ARBWF Report;** –Jean Van Pelt, Chelsey Nutter
 - Chelsey reported that PEPO is continuing their funding series.
 - They've completed another Water Festival and she is stepping down as PEPO Coordinator after this next grant application process. All inquiries to educational programs should go directly to Jean going forward. (see attachment A)

- **Needs Assessment Report;** Jack, Chelsey, Brett
 - Chelsey reported on the Needs Assessment funds remaining in our accounts locally around \$9K and these should be replenished by July.
 - We now have 59 projects complete and 7 projects ready to go through the Needs Assessment this month.
 - Chelsey gave a break down for the funding process for this year. It's important to follow the Criteria and Guidelines when applying for any of the state water grants. They're listed on the Basin/CWCB websites.
 - Jack pointed out the next scheduled Needs Assessment meeting is June 26th at SECWCD and is open to all RT members.

- **Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative Report;** Mark Shea
 - Mark reported that a new grant application is being drafted for ARWC for \$256K. Mark discussed the Wildfire Decision Support system meeting (WFDSS) that was held May 23rd in Salida with 32 attendees and several water providers. Critical water system water structures were discussed and the need to develop a GIS data for critical systems.
 - Carol pointed out the importance of the post fire projects ARWC is continuing. There has been some flooding since the fires in these post fire locations.
 - There has been some frustration due to the governor's has signed executive orders for fire recovery and suppression dollars. Each fire had an appropriated amount from these executive orders. Since not all the dollars were used for suppression Carol has put together a request for additional recovery dollars and this money is not coming due to bureaucratic delays.
 - Carol is requesting that the Roundtable send a written request to the governor to release these funds. Carol and Mark will draft a document for Sandy's signature. This request has been approved by the membership. Once the letter is drafted and the EC has an opportunity to review the letter it will be signed and forwarded to the governor.
 - Other matters with regards with ARWC are several tasks are being done on the Lower Ark.
 - Sandy stated that we're still looking for ARWC to become a 501c3 which will open several alternative funding sources not now available. Once this happens we're looking to the EC members to reside on its Board. This allows the RT to continue full collaboration. Carol pointed out that the Bylaws still need to be reviewed by the EC and comments returned ASAP.

- **Ph II Colorado River Risk Study;**
 - It is still important to continue to keeping the RT updated.

- **BIP Coordinator;** Gary Barber
 - Gary gave a brief update on current projects going on throughout the Basin.
 - Nick gave an update on the Holbrook project and the construction still going on with the dam construction and the importance of keeping to the timelines due to irrigation necessities.

- **Joint East Slope Roundtables meeting June 20th**

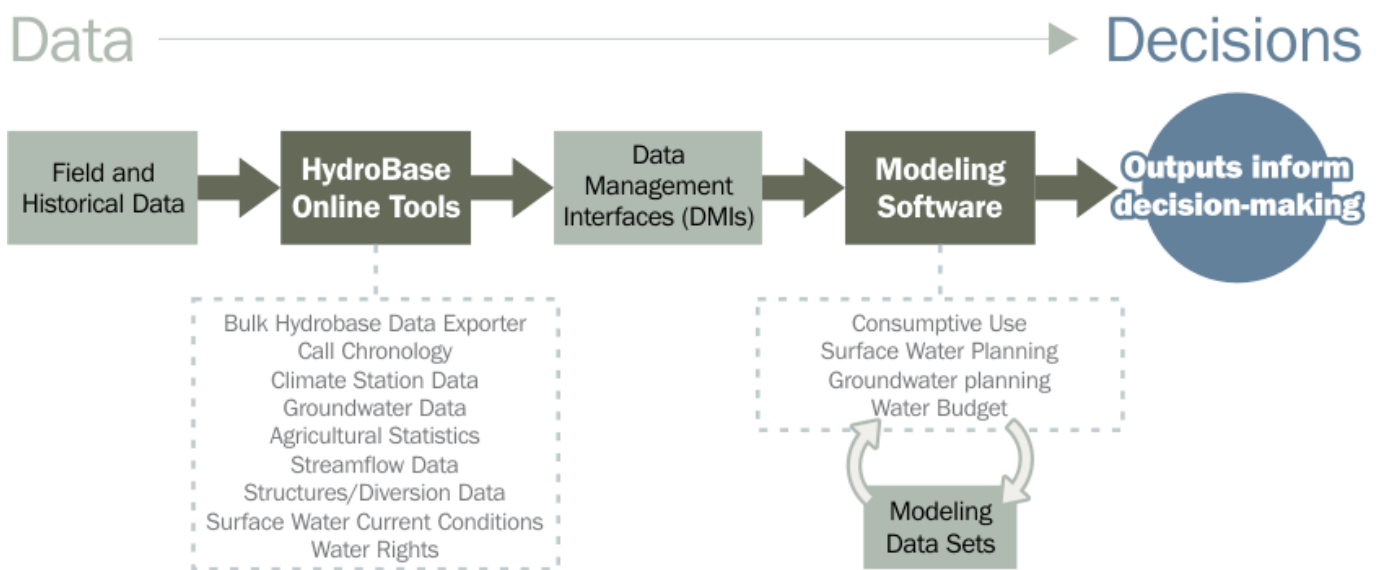
Break:

Programs Presentations; Mark Shea

- **ArkDSS Presentation;** Andy Moore, CWCB
 - Decision Support System presentation with a brief.
 - Colorado's Decision Support Systems (CDSS) is a water management system developed by the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) and the Colorado Division of Water Resources (DWR) for each of Colorado's major water basins.
 - The Map Viewer has been upgraded with new features and a new look!

- **What's Available**
 - The CDSS provides users with the following data, tools, and products:

- Basins - From water resource data access to sophisticated modeling, the DSS has been implemented, to various degrees, for all river basins within the state.
 - Online Tools – These web-based tools can be used without additional software so that users can easily access all the CDSS’s water data.
 - Software Products – Specific software products used to develop the CDSS in various basins are available for users to download for either creating new models or using baseline data sets (Modeling Data).
 - Modeling Data – Baseline data sets developed through the CDSS are available for various Software Products.
 - GIS Data – Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data developed through the CDSS are available for download for each of the divisions throughout Colorado.
 - Documents – Various documents related to the CDSS are also available so that users can view or download the latest reports, technical memoranda, publications, meeting materials, and more.
- **How Do You Get from Data to Decisions?**



- **Water of the U.S.; Mark Pifher**
 - This presentation was directed at turning back 2015 regulation, also known as Waters of the United States, asserts federal power over small waterways such as wetlands, headwaters and ponds, requiring Clean Water Act permits for any actions that could harm or pollute them. The Obama administration said 117 million Americans’ drinking water relies on those waterways.
 - The rule is currently on hold. The Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit, based in Cincinnati, ordered it halted in 2015 while numerous lawsuits challenging the rule wind their ways through the court system.
 - Scott Pruitt, the current EPA head and former attorney general of Oklahoma, led one of the lawsuits.
 - To industries such as agriculture, developers and energy companies, the rule would have added a major new burden by requiring costly permits for numerous land uses. Opponents say its definitions are so broad that puddles could be put under federal control.
 - The order specifically asks the agencies to consider what the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia wrote in the 2006 case Rapanos v. United States, saying the Clean Water Act ought only to cover navigable waters and waterways “with a continuous surface connection” to them — a far more restrictive definition than what the Obama EPA put into its rule.

- The official said the EPA will also be instructed to ask the 6th Circuit court to put the litigation against it on hold while the administration reviews it.
- **Questions;** SeEtta brought up a very important point of how this rollback of the 2015 EPA regulation would help with drinking water problems for downstream communities, as well as, wetland's protection being an important part of the 2015 regulation appears will not be considered with this rollback and further endangered with the new policy. Mark admitted that this final version of the EPA rollback has several problems.

Other Matters from Membership; None

Meeting adjourned @ 3:00 PM
Submitted by Al Tucker Recorder